

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ZANZIB 00063 100957Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-08 INR-07 NSAE-00 CIEP-01 FAA-00 /039 W

-----101006Z 122142 /13

R 100705Z FEB 77

FM AMCONSUL ZANZIBAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1246

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, TZ, KE, EAIR

SUBJECT: ZANZIBAR'S ATTITUDES TOWARDS KENYAN-TANZANIAN DISPUTE

REF: 76 ZANZIBAR 131

1. PREVALENT ZANZIBAR VIEW OF KENYAN-TANZANIAN DISPUTE IS THAT IT IS KENYAN-MAINLAND TANZANIAN PROBLEM IN WHICH ZANZIBAR IS ONLY INCIDENTALLY INVOLVED. WE HAVE FOUND CONSIDERABLE VARIETY OF OPINION ON WHO IS AT FAULT.

2. ONLY ONE KENYAN-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT HAS SOUGHT PERMISSION TO LAND IN ZANZIBAR SINCE TANZANIA CLOSED ITS BORDER WITH KENYA EVENING OF FEBRUARY 3. THAT AIRCRAFT, A SMALL CHARTERED PLANE, ARRIVED FEBRUARY 4 AND DEPARTED SAME DAY. ASSURANCES WERE GIVEN IN ADVANCE IT WOULD NOT BE INTERFERED WITH. ON FEBRUARY 7 BRITISH-REGISTERED AIRCRAFT FLYING CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER TO ZANZIBAR FROM MOMBASA DENIED PERMISSION TO LAND BY CONTROL TOWER WHEN PROPER AUTHORITIES COULD NOT BE REACHED. CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, HOWEVER, ABLE TO REACH ZANZIBAR SAME DAY BY TANZANIAN-REGISTERED CHARTER FROM MOMBASA.

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3. AUTHORITIES CONCERNED WITH SETTING UP ZANZIBAR'S AIRLINE (REFTEL) ARE DISAPPOINTED AT NOT BEING IN POSITION TO REAP BENEFITS FROM CURRENT SHORTAGE OF AIR SERVICE TO AND FROM ZANZIBAR AND ELSEWHERE IN EAST AFRICA. WERE SUCH AN AIRLINE NOW IN OPERATION THERE ARE INDICATIONS ZANZIBAR WOULD WANT IT TO PROVIDE SERVICE BETWEEN KENYA AND TANZANIA AS AN "INTERNA-

TIONAL" CARRIER.

4. ZANZIBAR HAS BEEN PLANNING ITS OWN AIRLINE FOR TWO YEARS BUT SO FAR HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DECIDE HOW TO PROCEED. CONFLICTING VIEWS HAVE SORTED OUT INTO TWO CAMPS: THOSE WHO WANT TO START WITH FULL-FLEDGED AIRLINE WITH TWO OR THREE 50-PASSENGER SIZE AIRCRAFT AND THOSE WHO FAVOR SMALLER AIRCRAFT WHICH WILL NOT MEET FULL DEMAND BUT WHICH WILL BE ASSURED OF PRODUCING PROFITS FROM THE BEGINNING. PROPONENTS OF LATTER COURSE HAVE ENGINEERED ORDER FOR TWO BEECH QUEENAIR 12-PASSENGER AIRCRAFT WHICH REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN SITTING IN WICHITA FOR PAST THREE MONTHS IN "ZANAIR" COLORS READY FOR DELIVERY. ANOTHER TRY FOR A DECISION ON WHAT ZANZIBAR SHOULD BUY IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 11.
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